

Mollohan Backs Reinvestment in People's Priorities

December 19, 2007 -- Congressman

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"This bill is far from perfect and I was disappointed that the Republican minority chose to march in lockstep with the President in blocking key efforts to make all the investments we need in a fiscally responsible way," Mollohan said. "However, this bill reverses some of the harmful cuts proposed by the President. I am specifically proud that this bill honors our men and women who served their country by including the largest increase in funding in the history of the Veterans Administration."

As chairman of the Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Subcommittee, Mollohan's work on the bill led to funding for a range of important projects for law enforcement, economic development and science research.

"As a result of my subcommittee's work, the bill contained funding for Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) that help our towns and cities fight crime," Mollohan said. "While national crime rates went up, the Administration proposed cutting the program by 94 percent. This bill rejects that cut and provides \$555 million above the President's request including \$20 million for the COPS on the Beat hiring program that hasn't been funded since 2005."

Mollohan said the measure also funds the State and Local Law Enforcement and Crime Prevention Grants in the Department of Justice. He said the bill rejects most of the President's \$1.4 billion proposed cut.

Mollohan's subcommittee work also supported science research. The bill contains \$4.8 billion for National Science Foundation research - \$156 million above the 2007 level, which will ensure that the U.S. maintains its position as a global leader in scientific research and technology.

The bill contains \$756 million, \$115 million above the President's request, for the National Institute of Standards and Technology Research (NIST) to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness.

For NASA, the bill contains \$5.6 billion for science applications - \$200 million above 2007 levels and \$61 million above the President's request for scientific research in space such as the Hubble Space Telescope, the Mars Rovers, and the Earth Science missions. NASA is also slated to receive \$625 million for aeronautics activities, \$81 million above the President's request for research on fuel efficiency, air traffic patterns and emission reduction. NASA is also slated for \$3.8 billion in space exploration funding, \$270 million above 2007 levels.

The rest of the Omnibus package backed by Mollohan includes reinvestments in:

• Medical

Research: \$607 million above the President's request to study diseases like Alzheimer's, cancer, Parkinson's and diabetes.

• Healthcare

Access: \$1 billion above the President's request, making targeted increases to programs like Community Health Centers to provide 280,000 more underinsured Americans with access to healthcare and High Risk Insurance Pools to help 200,000 more people afford health insurance.

- Rural Healthcare: \$147 million above the President's request to help 1,200 small, rural hospitals.

• K-12

Education: \$767 million above the President's request with targeted increases to Title 1, Special Education, Teacher Quality Grants, After School Programs, and Head Start.

- Student Aid: \$1.7 billion above the President's request for Pell Grants and other student aid programs.

• Vocational

Education: \$575 million above the President's request for technical training at high schools and community colleges.

- Homeland Security Grants: \$1.8 billion above the President's request, recognizing that fighting terror must be a top priority.

• Highway

Infrastructure: Meets the guaranteed levels set in the authorization

bill and provides a \$1 billion initiative for bridges.